

# Sen. Javier Souto



Miami-Dade County Commissioner  
District 10

“Let’s be proud of our community, let’s keep it safe and clean.”

Dear Neighbor:

As your elected County Commissioner, I would like to inform you about our major accomplishments for 2005.

This year was a particularly eventful year for Miami-Dade County with the damages caused by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Wilma. Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Wilma caused 95 percent of Miami-Dade County residents to lose power, with areas of Westchester and Kendall suffering some of the worst damage due to fallen trees damaging power lines. The Department of Solid Waste Management, with the assistance of debris removal contractors, worked expeditiously to remove all hurricane debris from the public right-of-way. This was a daunting task, considering that Unincorporated Miami-Dade County alone had over 450,000 piles of hurricane debris spread throughout 2,000 square miles.

The Solid Waste Department deployed in excess of 500 collection crews working seven days a week, 7a.m. to 7p.m. after hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Wilma and these crews will continue their work well into the new year. My staff and I worked with many private enclosed communities to assist them with the removal of hurricane debris. FEMA guidelines do not allow the County to collect hurricane debris from private roads in enclosed communities, so I coordinated directly with the County Manager, the Director of the Solid Waste Department and the homeowner associations for communities like the Kenlands, Snapper Creek Townhomes, Snapper Village Condominiums, Britannia Estates, and many other enclosed communities so that the hurricane related debris could be placed on the nearest County owned road or right-of-way, where the Solid Waste Department and FEMA could haul it away, thus saving the homeowners in these communities the costs associated with removing the debris from these gated or privately maintained communities.

Among the projects we were able to complete are: resurfacing of the streets in the neighborhood bounded by SW 102 Avenue to 107 Avenue and from Bird Road to SW 48 Street; resurfacing of the streets in the neighborhood bounded by SW 117 Avenue to 112 Avenue and from Miller Road to SW 48 Street. The Coral Way road expansion between 87th Avenue and the Palmetto has been finally completed. I also funded some drainage improvements and the resurfacing of Coral Way between 87th Avenue and 107th Avenue, which has also been completed. We still have two major State projects that are under construction, one project involves intersection improvements along SW 87th Avenue, which is a state road and the widening of the Palmetto Expressway between Tamiami Trail and Bird Road and the reconfiguration of the Palmetto exits along this stretch. These projects have no doubt inconvenienced residents in my district, but once the projects are completed, they should resolve some of the traffic congestion problems encountered during rush hour in this area.

I have earmarked funding to resurface the roads in the following neighborhoods, where the roads are in very poor condition; East Kendale Lakes between SW 56 Street and 72 Street from 127th Avenue to 137th Avenue; North Westchester from SW 8th Street to SW 16th Street and from SW 87th Avenue to SW 97th Avenue; the neighborhood bounded by Flagler Street to SW 8th Street and from SW 97th Avenue to 102 Avenue and the neighborhood near St. Brendan from SW 87th Avenue to 92nd Avenue and from SW 32 Street to SW 40th Street. The projects should commence in the coming months. They are pending any utility or drainage improvements in these respective neighborhoods, so that once the roads are resurfaced, they do not have to be torn up once again. I have also earmarked half the funding along with Commissioner Carlos Gimenez for the resurfacing of Miller Road (SW 56 Street) between the Palmetto Expressway and SW 127th Avenue. In addition, I have earmarked half the funding along with Commissioner Joe Martinez for the resurfacing of Bird Road between the Florida Turnpike and SW 157th Avenue.

The Public Works Department recently completed two landscape projects that I requested. They removed the weeds and cane grass along the canal bank that borders Bird Road between SW 120th Avenue and SW 147th Avenue and planted grass and a hedge. They also planted some flowering trees along the eastern public right-of-way of SW 117th Avenue between SW 32 Street and SW 38th Street.

I have authorized and earmarked funding to install new sidewalks where currently none exist, and replace any broken sidewalks or sidewalks patched with asphalt in the following neighborhoods: Coral Way to Bird Road and from 77th Court to 107th Avenue; Bird Road to Miller Road and from 102 Avenue to 82 Avenue; Coral Way to Tamiami Trail from 77th Avenue to 92nd Avenue; Village Green from Coral Way to Bird Road and from 118th Avenue to 127th Avenue; Kendale Lakes Neighborhood from SW 56 Street to 72 Street and from 127th Avenue to 147th Avenue; Winston Park and any other individual neighborhood sidewalk project that has been requested by letter or telephone call to my office in the past couple of years. As the Public Works Department awards new sidewalk contracts with sufficient capacity for these projects, you should begin to see these sidewalk projects commence simultaneously throughout my district.

I am here to serve you.

Sincerely,

Sen. Javier Souto  
Commissioner, Miami-Dade County



## Shannon Melendi Act Adopted by Miami-Dade County

The Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners adopted a law sponsored by Commissioner Javier Souto mandating that all coaches, umpires and volunteers who will have direct contact with children show proof of official statewide background checks for substance abuse, family violence and crimes of moral turpitude. All coaches, umpires, Parks Department personnel and permanent volunteers who come in direct contact with children shall wear a picture identification at all times while on County property. The law includes persons employed to work fairs and carnivals on County Park lands.

We have had too many incidents with abduction of children by predators. Remember that individuals who are seeking to prey on children and teenagers are going to seek employment in jobs where they have direct access to children.

One of the most painful cases involving a predator stalking his victims by seeking employment in a youth league where he had

access to children and young girls was the monster who was convicted of murdering Shannon Melendi in September. This man had an extensive criminal record, including a conviction for kidnapping and molesting a 14-year-old girl in 1982 and a history of assaulting women that dated back to the 70's. Yet, he was able to secure a position as an umpire in a Softball Cub in Atlanta, Georgia where he murdered Shannon on March 26, 1994. Shannon Melendi was a student at Emory University and worked part-time as a scorekeeper in this softball league where she was stalked by this predator. He should never have been hired as an umpire with his criminal record involving abuse of children and women. Shannon was a brilliant student who graduated from Southwest Miami Senior High School and a shining star in our community before her life was taken by this animal. Commissioner Souto named the new law as the "Shannon Melendi Act," in memory of Shannon, whose family he has known since Shannon was an infant.

You have many families where both parents work and can't attend their child's activities. They entrust the welfare of their children to these coaches and to the Parks Department. We have to assure those parents that we are providing their children the safest environment possible.

In addition to the wearing the identification cards indicating to parents and Parks Department personnel that these coaches, umpires, referees, carnival employee and permanent volunteers have undergone the requisite criminal background checks, the law also requires the leagues to maintain files on these criminal background checks and proof of legal immigrant status. This information would facilitate a police investigation in any incident involving a child.



# Commissioner Souto Pursues Guardrails Along Canal Banks & Waterways

Commissioner Souto Sponsored Legislation urging the Florida Legislature, the Florida Department of Transportation, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, the South Florida Water Management District, and other pertinent state departments to install guardrails on highways and roads running parallel to canals, particularly along heavily-traveled routes.

Many highways and roads in Florida run parallel to canals. Tragic accidents have occurred when motorists leave these highways and roads and fall into these canals. In his district there have been two young girls who drowned in canals this year alone. The installation of guardrails could prevent such accidents.

Commissioner Souto is leading this crusade for guardrails by example. He is earmarking over \$200,000 of his Commission District funding for guardrails at the following locations within the next few months:

- SW 137th Avenue from SW 104 Street to SW 88 Street
- SW 117th Avenue from SW 43 Street to SW 60 Street
- Fontainebleau Blvd. (West bound) from NW 98 Place to NW 102 Ct.
- SW 24 Street (West bound) from SW 97 Ave to SW 98 Avenue
- SW 48 Street from SW 104 Avenue to SW 104 Court
- SW 56 Street (East bound) from SW 109 Court to SW 109 Ave.
- SW 56 Street (East bound) from SW 133 Place to SW 135 Ave.
- SW 59 Street from SW 129 Court to SW 128 Place
- SW 59 Street from SW 135 Avenue to SW 133 Place
- SW 68 Street at SW 130 Avenue
- SW 68 Street from SW 134 Avenue to SW 132 Avenue
- SW 72 Street (West bound) from SW 134 Court to SW 133 Ave.
- SW 144 Court from Kendale Lakes Blvd to 145 Ft. South
- SW 102 Avenue from SW 20 Street to SW 20 Terr.

- SW 132 Avenue from SW 69 Terr. To SW 71 Street
- SW 127 Avenue from SW 28 Street to SW 27 Street



Motorists traveling along Miller Road and 127th Avenue may have noticed some newly installed hand carved and painted wood signs along the community wall surrounding the Royale Green neighborhood. Commissioner Javier Souto recently paid the Parks Department \$10,000 from his office funds for the construction and installation of nine signs at every entrance to the Royale Green neighborhood. Commissioner Souto will be purchasing community signs for any neighborhood or community in his district which makes a request to his office. He already has placed an order for signs requested by residents of Village Green and Winston Park. The commissioner likes to work directly with neighbors, and neighborhood associations on designing these community signs because he feels strongly that this gives the neighbors a sense of neighborhood pride.

To order a community sign for your neighborhood contact us at 305-222-2116 or send us an email at [javiersouto@miamidade.gov](mailto:javiersouto@miamidade.gov).



Commissioner Souto pictured with swimmers from district 10 swim teams who use Tropical Estates Pool. Commissioner Souto secured \$16,500 to pay to open Rockway Park Swimming Pool and Tropical Estates Pool during the summer months. The funding also included free swimming lessons for any child residing in Commission District 10. The Commissioner has also allocated funds to replace diving boards, pool heaters so that both pools can be used in the winter months, new lights on pool deck so that the pools can be used in the evening, as well as replacement of the air-conditioner units at the pool offices, new umbrellas for the lifeguard stands and the parents' seating area, as well as new rescue tubes for the life guards. He will also be refurbishing the bathrooms and showers at Tropical Estates Pool and resurfacing both pool shells with epoxy coating.



Commissioner Souto standing next to Saturnino Urrutia. Saturnino helps keep District 10 clean and free of graffiti and trash by collecting abandoned tires, shopping carts, furniture, etc. He also maintains the litter cans installed by Commissioner Souto throughout the District, as well as paints over any graffiti vandalism that he finds in District 10.

## Commissioner Souto Pursues Changes in Aftermath of Hurricanes Wilma & Katrina

In the aftermath of hurricanes Wilma and Katrina, Commissioner Souto sponsored several legislative items and studies that will allow us to better serve this community in the future.

He co-sponsors an ordinance to require all gas stations in Miami-Dade County to install emergency generators, either permanent or temporary, in order to supply fuel to Miami-Dade County residents, within 24 hours of a hurricane. In light of the costs associated with this mandate on gas station owners, Commissioner Souto concurrently sponsored legislation urging the Florida Legislature to include in its 2006 budget funding for the purchase of generators for emergency fuel supplies by some of the smaller independent gas station owners.

The majority of Miami-Dade County's traffic signals were inoperable because of a loss of electrical power. Therefore, Commissioner Souto also sponsored legislation directing the County Manager to study the use of solar energy batteries to power the newer traffic lights mounted on the mast arms, so that in the event of a power failure, these traffic lights can continue to function as successfully as the County's new solar powered illuminated bus shelters functioned following Hurricane Wilma. We don't have to power every single traffic light through solar powered backup batteries. If you can have one functioning traffic light in each direction, at each major intersection in the County, just think about the police manpower that can be deployed to more important life safety issues following a major hurricane.

Commissioner Souto sponsored legislation directing County Manager to develop a plan for phasing out of all the older type traffic signals that dangle from cords and replace them with the newer type of traffic signals that are mounted on mast arms, which are better able to withstand hurricane force winds.

The Commissioner also asked the County to examine whether it was feasible to develop a revolving loan program to assist homeowners to finance the cost of installing natural gas powered emergency power plants, which automatically powers the house in the event of a power failure.

Commissioner Souto also sponsored legislation to study alternative technologies such as solar power, water power, methane gas from waste, as potential sources of energy, so the County could generate its own source of power.

He is also conducting the legal research to determine if the County can mandate that all new apartment or condominium buildings with more than two stories constructed in Miami-Dade County after passage of this law provide emergency generator power; and if we can mandate that all existing multifamily residential buildings provide emergency generator power to operate at least one elevator for every four stories to allow elderly residents and disabled residents to leave their units in the event of a power failure. He is sponsors a law mandates supermarkets to provide emergency power generators in order to provide food supplies in the event of power failure. The Commissioner also feels strongly that all Adult Congregate Living Facilities should provide emergency power generators.

There were hundreds of elderly residents trapped in buildings throughout Commissioner Souto's district. He and his staff spent two weeks following hurricane Wilma and Katrina, delivering almost 5 tons of ice to these home bound elderly and disabled residents, so they could preserve their food and also to preserve medicines like insulin, which needs to be refrigerated. The lack of elevators made the task difficult.

Commissioner Souto also provided Communities in his district like Winston Park, Snapper Creek Village and Fontainebleau with several pallets of tarps to assist homeowners in those communities cover hurricane damaged roofs.

Commissioner Souto allocated small grants to communities that requested his assistance following hurricanes Katrina & Wilma. The amount of the grant was determined by the number of homeowners in the community. These communities were devastated by Hurricanes Katrina & Wilma and are facing thousands of dollars in unbudgeted costs for hurricane debris removal and damages to community structures.

Kenland Bend South	\$5,000
Kenland Court Homeowners Association	\$5,000
Britannia Estates Homeowners Association	\$5,000
Snapper Creek Townhouse Homeowners Association	\$10,000
Snapper Village Condominium Association	\$10,000
Winston Park Homeowners Association	\$10,000
Horizons West Property Owners Association, Inc.	\$5,000
Oakview Condominium Association in Fontainebleau	\$5,000



Commissioner Javier Souto pictured with your library staff at the opening of the new Concord Branch Library located at Bird Road and 112th Avenue. Please visit the newest jewel of the Library System, which brings the library closer to the residents of the Concord area, West Wood Lakes neighborhood, Village Green community, Horse Country community and the Bird Road corridor.



# Highlights of Commissioner Souto’s Efforts to Improve Our Neighborhoods

## WESTCHESTER

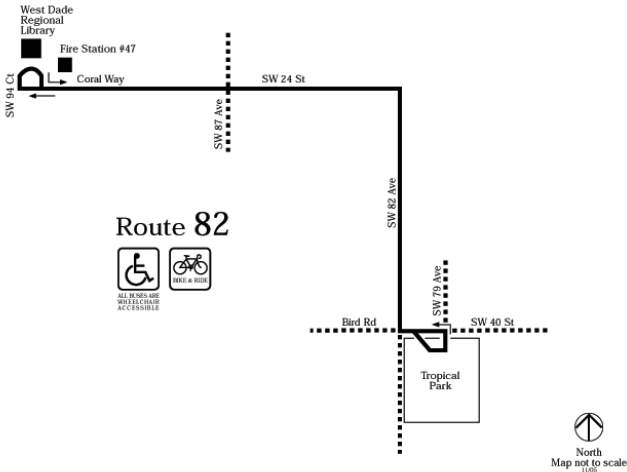
- \$28,823,000 Drainage Improvements (Southern Westchester SW 77 Ave. to 117 Ave. from 24 St. to 40 St.)
- \$650,000 Drainage Improvements (SW 8 Street to SW 24 Street & SW 80 Avenue to SW 87 Avenue)
- \$363,000 Sidewalks (SW 92 Ave. to 87 Ave & 24 St. to 32 St.)
- \$1,000,000 Sidewalks, Curb & Gutters (SW 92 Ave. to 97 Ave & 24 St. to 8 St.)
- \$342,000 Road Resurfacing & Sidewalk Replacement (SW 97 Ave. to 102 Ave & 24 St. to 8 St.)
- \$312,500 Drainage Project (SW 97th Avenue from 8 Street to Flagler Street)
- \$250,000 Drainage Project (SW 97 Avenue to 102 Avenue & Flagler Street to 4 Street)
- \$38,000 Illumination of SW 114th Avenue from 32 Street to 40 Street.
- \$100,000 Sidewalks, Grass Swales and Driveway Aprons on SW 117th Ave. from 32 St. to SW 24 St.
- \$1,800,000 Landscaping SW 117th Avenue including canal banks from SW 88th St. to SW 8th St.
- \$1,200,000 Landscaping Bird Road from SW 117th Avenue to SW 67th Avenue
- \$600,000 Landscaping SW 87th Avenue from SW 8 Street to SW 88 Street
- \$500,000 Landscaping Coral Way from SW 122 Avenue to SW 67th Avenue.
- WESTWOOD LAKES, MILLER HEIGHTS, BLUE LAKES, LAKE PARK, TROPICAL ESTATES, LAKE CATALINA NEIGHBORHOODS**
- \$10,000,000 Drainage Improvements (SW 40 Street to SW 56 Street & 112 Avenue to 82 Avenue)
- \$5,147,000 Drainage Improvements (Westwood Lakes Neighborhood SW 40 St. to 56 St. & 112 Ave. to 117 Ave.)
- \$12,000,000 Resurfacing of Roads (From SW 82 Ave. to 117th Ave. from SW 56 St. to SW 40th St.)
- \$56,000 Drainage Project (SW 97 Avenue & 40th Terrace)
- \$170,000 Blue Lakes Park Illuminated Walking Path
- \$10,000,000 Tropical Park Equestrian Center Phase II expansion.
- \$250,000 Domino Park at Tropical Park
- \$4,000,000 for Westchester Cultural Arts Center.
- \$250,000 for Domino Park at Tropical Park
- \$2,000,000 Tropical Park Boxing Center

## ROYALE GREEN NEIGHBORHOOD

- \$1,028,000 Royale Green Road Resurfacing Project (SW 42 St. to 56 St. & 127 Ave. to 132 Ave.)
- \$1,131,000 Drainage Improvements Royale Green Neighborhood (SW 127 Ave. to 132 Ave. & 42 St. to 56 St.)
- \$146,000 Illuminate Royale Green Park Walking Path and Park. (Construction end of 2004 - Early 2005)
- HORSE COUNTRY NEIGHBORHOOD**
- \$1,550,000 Drainage Improvements (Horse Country)
- \$696,000 Horse Country Road Resurfacing Project (SW 42 St. to 72 St. & 117 Ave. to 127 Ave.)
- VILLAGE GREEN NEIGHBORHOOD**
- \$3,000,000 Drainage Improvements (Village Green Neighborhood SW 118 Ave. to 127 Ave. from 24 St. to 40 St.)
- \$150,000 Construction of Illuminated Walking Path and Illumination of Park.
- KENDALL NEIGHBORHOODS**
- \$790,000 Kenlands Road Resurfacing Project (SW 88 St. to 104 St. & 117 Ave. to 127 Ave.)
- \$925,000 Winston Park Road Resurfacing Project (SW 72 St. to 88 St. & 127 Ave. to 137 Ave.)
- \$9,847,000 Drainage Improvements (Winston Park Neighborhood SW 127 Ave. to 137 Ave. from 72 St. to 88 St.)
- \$1,550,000 Drainage Improvements (SW 56 Street to SW 72 Street from 117 Avenue to 109 Court)
- \$650,000 Resurfacing Roads (SW 88 Street to SW 104 Street and from SW 118th Ave. to 127th Ave.)
- \$60,000 Landscaping (SW 122 Avenue from SW 104 Street to 88 Street.)
- \$231,000 Drainage Improvements (SW 122 Avenue from SW 94 Street to 100 Street)
- \$1,600,000 Kendall Soccer Park Phase 1
- \$2,150,000 Kendall Soccer Park Phase 2 (Completion of Remaining Soccer Fields)
- \$400,000 West Kendale Lakes Park Development
- \$250,000 Illumination of SW 76 Street from 107 Avenue to 117 Avenue
- FONTAINEBLEAU**
- \$200,000 Earmarked for decorative Fence Women’s Park

# The Citizen Wins "Major Finished Projects"

- Secured over \$65 million in federal monies for 690 FEMA drainage projects in his Commission District.
- Secured over \$25 million in for sidewalks, road resurfacing, and parks projects.
- Secured \$38.7 million in canal dredging projects that increased the stormwater flow of our canals.
- Sponsored legislation to improve security at our sensitive Water and Sewer facilities.
- Sponsored legislation creating an official Anti Litter sign for Miami-Dade County and earmarked \$30,000 for installation of Anti Litter signs in District 10.
- Obtained Over 300 Litter Cans for Bus Stops for District 10.
- Passed law mandating commercial establishments to place litter cans near entrances.
- Passed law requiring commercial establishments to install bike racks.
- Created the Bikes on Buses and Bikes on Metrorail Programs.
- Initiated the "Stolen Car Detection & Criminal Profile Program" at Seaport.
- Obtained street sweeper trucks to clean Dade's streets.
- Purchased "Welcome to Westchester" and the "Welcome to Kendall" signs.
- Created the "Golden Guide to the Dade County Code" and the "Resident Guide to Local Services."
- Closed night clubs and bars that were havens for drugs and prostitution.
- Created "Friends of the Metro Parks" program.
- Created "Friends of the Police" program which was used to open a privately funded police work station.
- Obtained playgrounds for toddlers (tot lots) for Banyan Elementary School, Concord Park, Southern Estates Park in Village Green, and West Dade Regional Library.
- Established "Adopt-A-Road" program to permit local organizations to beautify roads.
- Provided the Mildred Pepper Senior Center with \$150,000 to purchase new air-conditioned buses.
- Drafted two laws prohibiting noises that disturb the tranquility of residential communities.
- Sponsored Laws to protect neighborhoods, schools and parks from adult establishments.
- Developed a system of filtering pornography from library computers accessible to minors.
- Secured funding for the Bird Road Max & the Coral Way Max Express Bus Service.
- Secured \$4 million to build a World Class Equestrian Center at Tropical Park
- Paved over 12 square miles or half of the roads in the district.
- Reformed County jail food service practices that were wasting millions of dollars on jail inmates.
- Drafted laws that require all cash registers in Dade County to have a screen visible to consumers, so they can see their merchandise transaction as it is charged.
- Secured \$350,000 for Outdoor Emergency Call Boxes at County parks to improve safety.
- Established regulations and a permit process for placing storage containers or “pods” in single family residential neighborhood, to limit the time and contents stored.
- Created the Patriot Passport Program allowing veterans to ride buses and metrorail for free.
- Sponsored several legislative initiatives targeting drunk drivers.
- Changed laws to protect consumers who receive high water bills caused by leaks.
- Mandated safety barriers for playgrounds at child care facilities.



On December 19th, the Miami-Dade Transit Department launched Route 82, a new local minibus route serving the Westchester area which runs weekdays from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. every 30 minutes, between the West Dade Regional Library and Tropical Park via Coral Way and SW 82 Ave. Commissioner Souto requested this new route which will link the West Dade Regional Library with the Coral Way Shopping Malls at 87th Avenue (K-Mart, Publix, Winn-Dixie, Ross & Staples), Tropical Park and the Tropicaire Shopping Center across from Tropical Park (Target, Best Buy, Publix and American Signature Home Furniture).

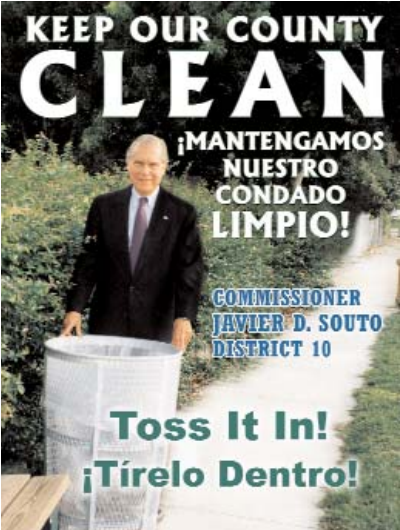


Commissioner Souto earmarked \$100,000 in funding to purchase a new toddler playground for Francisco Human Rights Park (West Dade Regional Library), which was recently installed. This park was originally developed using a State grant obtained by Commissioner Souto, when he was a member of the Florida Senate.

## FREE Shopping Carts to District 10 Residents

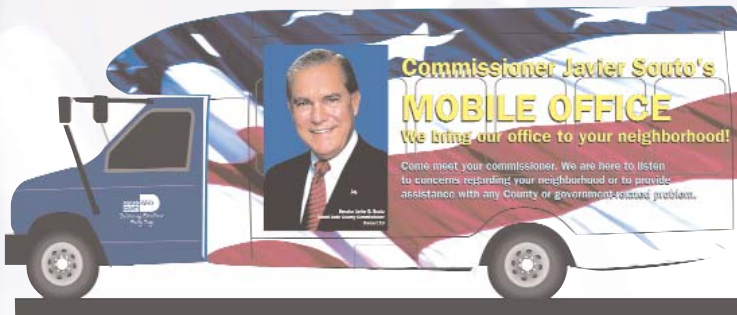
Commissioner Souto will be distributing free fold-away grocery carts to needy or elderly residents who live in his Commission District. The County wants to discourage residents from taking shopping carts home in order to reduce the number of stray shopping carts abandoned in neighborhoods. These abandoned shopping carts are traffic hazards, eye sores and potential projectiles in hurricane weather. Remember that anyone found by the Police Department in possession of a shopping cart is presumed to be in possession of stolen property and subject to immediate arrest under Florida Law. Commissioner Souto would hate to see anyone arrested for transporting groceries in a shopping cart, so he is offering any family who needs a grocery cart and brings this coupon, a free cart. There is a limit of one per household. Please Contact Commissioner Souto's Office at (305) 222-2116 and you will be placed on the list to receive a shopping cart. The Commissioner has to limit the program to the first 500 persons who place their names on the list.

Commissioner Souto purchased and installed more than 300 litter cans at bus stops throughout his district in order to eliminate the large volume of litter found around these bus stops. Commissioner Souto not only purchased these litter cans, but his office also maintains these trash cans on a regular basis. These 300 litter cans remove approximately 9,300 cubic yards of litter from the streets of the Commissioner's district every year and this has helped reduce flooding along several major roads, by reducing the volume of litter that clogs the storm water drains on these roads.





## Commissioner Javier Souto travels throughout his District in a Mobile Office to meet with neighborhood residents every monday



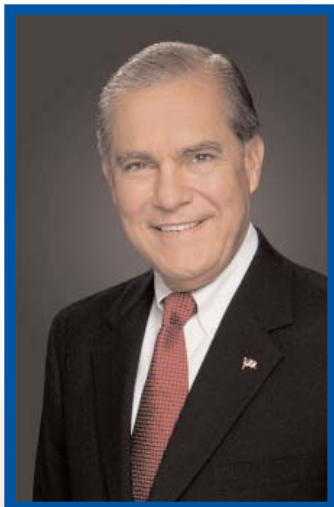
Every Monday, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 p.m., Commissioner Javier Souto and his assistants provide a roving district office in neighborhoods throughout his district.

In order to make himself more accessible to his constituents, the Commissioner and his assistants travel in a bus converted into a district office to different locations throughout Commission District 10, which includes Westchester, Kendall, Fontainebleau, Kendale Lakes, Calusa, Winston Park, The Kenlands, Royale Green, Village Green, and

Horse Country. Information on all county services and programs, as well as assistance with problems related to any county agency, will be provided at this mobile office. For more information, please contact Commissioner Javier Souto at 305-222-2116.

## "Saturday In The Park" with Commissioner Souto

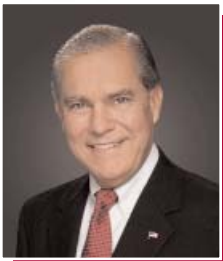
Commissioner Souto began his "Saturdays at the Park" program in January of 2005 and has been visiting a different park in his district every Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. He meets with the residents within his district to listen to their concerns. It provides residents who work during the week an opportunity to meet their Commissioner. It also allows residents to come together and meet their neighbors within their neighborhood park.




## COMMISSIONER JAVIER SOUTO TOWN MEETINGS

**Second Thursdays of the Month**  
**West Dade Regional Library**  
**9445 Coral Way (2nd Floor) • Time: 7:00PM**

**Fourth Thursdays of the Month**  
**Winston Park Club House**  
**8100 S.W. 132nd Ave. • Time: 7:00PM**



**Sen. Javier**  **Miami-Dade County Commissioner**  
**District 10**  
**SOUTO**

"Let's be proud of our community, let's keep it safe and clean."

### Downtown Office:

111 N.W. 1st Street • Suite 320  
Miami, FL 33128  
Phone: 305-375-4835 Fax: 305-375-3456  
[javiersouto@miamidade.gov](mailto:javiersouto@miamidade.gov)  
Office Hours: 9 AM - 5 PM, Mon. - Fri.

### District Office:

9766 Coral Way, Suite 1  
Miami, FL 33165  
Phone: 305-222-2116 Fax: 305-222-2120  
Office Hours: 9 AM - 5 PM, Mon. - Fri.



**Don't toss it out.**  
**Toss it in.**

## Grants Available for Small Businesses in Commission District 10

There is \$150,000 available to assist small businesses (less than 7 employees) located in Commissioner Souto's District for the 2006 calendar year. This program was initiated three years ago with 45 businesses that were awarded an average grant of \$5,000 each since 2004. These grants can be used by small businesses for purchasing equipment, purchasing inventory or office supplies, paying insurance premiums, minor renovations or advertising.

You can contact the Commissioner's office at 305-222-2116 to obtain an application for a grant in January. This is a competitive process and all applications will be ranked and recommended for funding by an independent panel.



# Hurricane Preparedness Tips

Hurricane Season begins June 1st and last through November 30th. According to the Experts, we are in a cycle where we will be experiencing more frequent hurricanes and more powerful hurricanes for the next 10 to 15 years, so we must learn how to prepare for one of these powerful storms.

Develop your personal disaster plan on how you will protect your household and your property.

Check your insurance coverage and be sure it includes replacement coverage, flood, and wind protection.

Trim your trees and bushes in May so they will survive damaging hurricane force winds. **(Please Do Not trim any trees or place any bulky waste at curbside if there is an approaching hurricane** - The County cannot collect thousands of piles of waste scattered over a 2,000 square mile County-wide area within a couple of days prior to the arrival of a hurricane, so your waste may become dangerous projectiles during hurricanes classified as Category 3 or greater)

## CITIZENS CHECKLIST:

Based on National Hurricane Center forecasts, Miami-Dade County will announce in the local media information about what citizens should be doing as a storm is approaching.

## EVACUATION:

- If you plan to evacuate your home, rehearse your evacuation plan with your family and leave extra time for traffic. Fuel vehicles.
- STS users: STS has a very limited number of vehicles and will only provide one (1) trip during evacuations.
- Beware of canals / road washouts hidden by high water.

## COMMUNICATIONS:

- Establish an out-of-state or area phone number to relay messages to friends and family.
- Assign someone in your home the job of checking the weather everyday during Hurricane Season.
- Once a tropical storm has formed, monitor the National Hurricane Center forecasts which are released at 5 a.m., 11a.m., 5 p.m. and 11p.m.
- Keep a battery-operated radio and two weeks supply of batteries on hand at all times.

## SHELTERING IN PLACE:

- If your residence is not in an evacuation zone and has hurricane shutters, you may be able to take shelter there. Remember these things:
- Take refuge in an interior hallway or smaller room with no windows, like a closet near load bearing walls.
- Keep a mattress nearby to protect your head and keep your hurricane kit with you in the room. Do not leave the safety of the safe room. Flying debris has been know to penetrate walls, tree trunks and even shutters. Also do not venture outside as the eye of the storm passes over. Winds and driving rain can begin suddenly and catch you off guard.
- Be sure to leave a clear path to exit in case of fire and keep a fire extinguisher nearby. Only use battery operated lamps or flashlights. Do not use open candles or gas lanterns.
- Set your refrigerator and freezer to their coldest settings, and put some of your bottled water in the freezer. This will allow you to keep perishable food cold for one to two days.
- Set aside water for bathing and sanitary purposes by storing it in the bathtub and other bottles and jugs. Prior to filling the bathtub, scrub the tub, wash it down with bleach, then rinse. The water in your hot water heater can be used for this as well.

## SAFETY AFTER THE STORM:

- Car accidents are the main cause of injury after a hurricane; treat all intersections like a 4-way stop. Combine your trips and drive only if it's absolutely necessary.
- Stay away from all downed utility lines and do not drive over them. Do not wade in flood waters after a storm.
- Limit your phone calls to absolute necessity and only call 911 for life threatening emergencies.

## GENERATORS:

- **Do Not run generators inside your home, or near an open door or window because the carbon monoxide fumes will kill you and your family.**
- Ground your generator. Do not connect to your home's electrical system, it is a fire / electrocution risk.

## CHAIN SAWS:

- Operate chain saws safely, read warnings on saw.

## HURRICANE KITS:

- The kit should have 3-14 days supply of the following items:

## THE BASICS:

- Store water in sanitized bathtubs, washing machines, and water heaters as well.
- Bottled Water (1 gallon per person per day)
- Manual Can opener \*
- Store food that does not require cooking.
- Non-perishable foods
- Canned meat, fish, fruit, or vegetables
- Bread in moisture proof packaging
- Cookies, candy or dried fruit
- Canned soups & non perishable milk
- Powdered or single serve drinks
- Cereal or granola bars
- Packaged ketchup, mustard or mayonnaise
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Instant tea or coffee
- Flashlight (1 per person)
- Portable battery powered lanterns
- Large trash bags (lots of them)



- Battery operated radio
- Extra batteries, including hearing aid batteries
- First aid kit including aspirin, antibiotic cream
- Mosquito repellent
- Sun screen (45 SPF recommended)
- Water proof matches / butane lighter
- Money (credit cards are useless during power outages)
- Unscented bleach or water purification tablets (add 8 drops of bleach per gal.)
- Maps of the area with landmarks on it

## COOKING:

- Sterno fuel
- Portable camp stove or grill
- Stove fuel or charcoal w/ lighter fluid
- Disposable eating utensils, plates, cups
- Napkins and paper towels
- Aluminum foil
- Oven mitts
- **Do not use charcoal or gas grills indoors.** Gases from open flame can be poisonous or cause fire.

## PERSONAL SUPPLIES:

- Prescription medicines (1 month supply and copy of prescriptions)
- Toilet paper
- Entertainment: books, games, magazines, etc.
- Bedding: pillows, sleeping bag
- Change of clothing
- Rain ponchos and work gloves
- Extra glasses or contacts

## IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS:

- Keep your Important Documents in your kit, and keep extra copies in a safe place
- Insurance documents
- A list of all your important contacts (family, doctors, insurance agents)
- Banking information
- Leases / mortgage
- Proof of occupancy (such as utility bill)
- Photo inventory of your personal belongings
- Waterproof container to keep the documents in

## BABIES:

- Disposable diapers
- Formula, food and medication
- Bottles and feeding utensils
- Diaper-Rash Ointment

## PET SUPPLIES:

- Dry and canned food for 14 days
- ID tags and collars
- Proof of recent immunizations
- Water (½ gallon per day)
- Litter box and supplies
- Carrying container

## OTHER NECESSITIES:

- Tool Box
- ABC rated fire extinguisher
- Masking tape or duct tape
- Outdoor extension cords
- Spray paint
- Standard single line traditional style telephone with cord connecting the receiver to the hand piece (After hurricanes, many people still have service, but they cannot communicate because they only have cordless telephones in their home which require electricity to operate)
- Local phone book
- Gloves
- Hand Wipes

# HURRICANE CONTACT NUMBERS

## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION:

The Answer Center (rumor control)  
**305-468-5900 TTY/TDD 305-468-5402 \*\***  
\*\* 24-hour hotline during hurricanes and emergency situations only.

Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program  
**305-513-7700 TDD: 305-468-5402**

## REPORTING DOWNED UTILITY LINES:

FPL **800-468-8243 TDD: 800-251-5325**

BellSouth **611 TDD: 305-780-2273**  
Customer Service (prior to the storm)  
**305-780-2355 TDD: 305-780-2273**



## DISASTER RESPONSE & RECOVERY:

Miami-Dade Office of Emergency Management  
**305-468-5400 TDD: 305-468-5402**

American Red Cross **305-644-1200**

Salvation Army **305-637-6700**

Building Code Compliance **305-375-2901**

Consumer Services (report price gouging)  
**305-375-3677 TDD: 305-375-4177**

Florida Department of Insurance  
**800-342-2762**

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
**800-621-3362 TDD: 800-462-7585**

National Flood Insurance Program  
**800-638-6620 TDD: 800-447-9487**

Animal Care & Control **305-884-1101**

Humane Society **305-696-0801**

Courtesy of Commissioner Javier Souto 305-222-2116